

**SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT ON
MALE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN
PILGRIM TOURISM SITES IN INDIA:
ANDHRA PRADESH, KERALA, AND ORISSA
Part 1**

EQUATIONS

**EQUATIONS CALLS FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN
TOURISM AND HOLDS GOVERNMENTS, TOURISM
PROMOTERS AND INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE FOR
ENSURING THAT TOURISM IS JUST,
NON-EXPLOITATIVE AND EQUITABLE**





Why Tourism is on every Government's agenda



- Seen as an engine for economic growth
- Used as a leverage for infrastructure development
- Higher return on investment
- Promoted as pollution free industry-green, soft



The other side of tourism

Most vulnerable



- A child in the context of tourism
- Forms of Exploitation:
 - Sexual Exploitation of Children
 - Child Labour & Tourism
 - Child Trafficking & Tourism
 - Child Pornography & Tourism

Situating Child Sexual Abuse in Tourism in India



- India home to more than 375 million children
- The age at which children are abused is growing lower
- Procurement of children are well organized rackets
- National Study on Child Abuse In 2007 covering 13 states, mentioned that 63% boys a abused that girls which is 56%
- In Andhra Pradesh as per the study the physical, mental, emotional, sexual abuse is around 53%

Evidence from Studies & Investigation



- 1991- six men were accused of sexually abusing children at an orphanage in Goa
- 2002- NCW highlighted the prevalence of child sexual abuse & Prostitution in Andhra Pradesh & Puri
- 2003- ECPAT highlighted that in Goa & Kerala prostitution & trafficking in women and children for the purpose of sex tourism & labour is on rise

Cont.

Evidence from Studies & Investigation



- 2004- Media article in Goa the state is witnessing an alarming rise in sexual abuse against children in the 7-16 age group
- 2004- Investigation confirmed the issue of male child abuse at Guruvayoor was first reported
- 2006- Investigation confirmed that male child abuse is common in the lodges near the temple
- 2006- NHRC provided evidence of growing child sex tourism in Pilgrim, Coastal tourism such like- Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi etc

Cont...

Evidence from Studies & Investigation



- 2006- Media reports and magazine reported that children below 13 offer sex for a few hundred rupees
- 2006- Situational Analysis of Prostitution of Boys in Hyderabad study show that “male child exploitation occurs in locales such as streets, markets, bus terminals, hotels, restaurants & religious establishments
- 2007- Minister stated that in the name of pilgrim, heritage and coastal tourism, sexual exploitation of children is quite widespread

The Complexity of the Situation



- Though public opinion is on the rise about child sexual exploitation by tourists in India little has been done to study the use of male children for prostitution in most places
- Boys involved in prostitution run the risk of rape, violence, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS infections, death
- Homosexuality is a crime in India under section 377 of IPC
- Therefore cases go unreported and shrouded behind a veil of silence

The Real Situation



- Most intervention in India with to this target groups have been on HIV/AIDS awareness
- Not enough has been done either by Government or Civil Society to develop and coordinate rescue, rehabilitation & welfare programmes for these male children who are victims of sexual exploitation

Why have we not done enough?



- International and Inter-state cooperation
- Lacunae in the legal systems
- Weak implementation of the law
- Loopholes in Legislations
- Lack of public awareness and acknowledgment of the problem

EQUATIONS CALLS FOR.....



- Government to be serious and priorities tackling this issue
 - Inter-departmental collaboration
 - Responsible plan of action and monitoring
 - Stronger policy and legislative provisions
- Tourism Industry to be responsible & accountable
- Civil Society Organization to work together
- Wider public to mobilise and demand for serious action to stop exploitation of the child. Each of us to feel morally responsible

Why Research



As there were no much research to prove the vulnerability of male children in sexual exploitation and abuse EQUATIONS did a situational analysis on

**“MALE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN
PILGRIM TOURISM SITES IN INDIA:ANDHRA
PRADESH, KERALA, AND ORISSA**

Why Pilgrim



In India, pilgrim tourism forms an important sector of tourism.

These sites continue to draw visitors mainly from within the country but also from the wide diasporas of non-resident Indians apart from foreign tourists.

Pilgrimage centres have and continue to be seen as revered places, but increasingly the link between prostitution and pilgrim sites is growing.

We had evidence from the studies mentioned above. Further the chances of boys being abused in the pilgrim sites were also high.

OBJECTIVES of our Research



- To find the extent and nature, scope and manifestation of male child sexual abuse by collecting qualitative information in the context of tourism- through case studies on three important pilgrim sites in India
- Identify key actors who are involved in/or facilitate male child prostitution
- Recommend actions that can be taken particularly at local and regional levels to combat
- Increase awareness among various stakeholders and to take forward advocacy efforts in the state and at national level

**SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT ON
MALE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN
PILGRIM TOURISM SITES IN INDIA:
ANDHRA PRADESH, KERALA, AND ORISSA
Part 2**

EQUATIONS

**EQUATIONS CALLS FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN
TOURISM AND HOLDS GOVERNMENTS, TOURISM
PROMOTERS AND INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE FOR
ENSURING THAT TOURISM IS JUST,
NON-EXPLOITATIVE AND EQUITABLE**



STRATEGIES



Grounds: Increase evidence need for intervention in pilgrim places, Not on the radar of government authorities, CSO, marginalized in the ambit of Child Protection and strong links to tourism

Approach: Primary 2Research(primary and secondary data collection, interviews, FGD to study male child sexual exploitation, prevalent in well known pilgrim tourist areas

Research Methodology



- Identifying the children with help of the NGOs working in the identified locations – Tirupati & Puri
- In Guruvayoor we made direct contact with the police, Anganwadi teachers & workers, CDPO, ICDS supervisors, sex workers & community members
- Interviews
- Focus Group Discussions
- Secondary information's collected from various departments as well as literature review
- We also relied on our observations on the field



*Case studies from
three pilgrim sites in India:
Andhra Pradesh, Orissa &
Kerala*

ANDHRA PRADESH

TOURIST MAP



TIRUPATI- ANDHRA PRADESH



Context:

- The town owes its existence to the temple of Lord Sri Venkateswara,
- Temple brings nearly 20 million visitors every year,
- one of the most visited religious places in the world.
- More of domestic and NRI, not many foreign tourist
- Tirupati has emerged as a “hot Spot” for commercial sex

Collaborations:

Peoples Action for Social Service (PASS)

Cont:

The Children Speak:



- Nine children interviewed- revealed that male child sexual abuse is rampant
- Got involved due to family situation, protect family & to reduce economic pressures
- Regular domestic tourism- same child during their next visit
- They were abused even before they were six-ten years old- mentally disturbed by 15 years they are into full time prostitution, few to protect their mother/sister from this
- Difficult to get out- both local men and tourists
- Every day at least 5 to 10 new children are seen- do know where they come from
- Lack of education, other job opportunities, economic/emotional support from their families- for survival
- Family pressure to earn more
- Less risk with male children selling sex than girls due to social stigma & fear of Pregnancy
- Power to dominate underprivileged groups- tourists
- Peer Pressure-though not forced nor abused sexually
- Prefer tourist more than local men as they are paid more and duration of time they have to spend is lower

Where Sexual Abuse Takes Place



- Mainly in hotels, lodges, street corners, rooms where they live, deserted construction sites, playgrounds, parks, cinema theatres, east and west railway station, railway track- over bridge, stadiums, cemetery etc. Domestic tourists often use small lodges and rooms in the bars for this purpose.
- The children said that both locals and domestic tourists were involved. They were not able to give a precise figure or percentage for tourists but it seemed like the ratio was about 80% of them were tourists. All these children are now in full time prostitution.

Modus Operandi



- Contacted either through peer groups or by hotels.
- Children working in the hotels are even exploited by their colleagues in the hotels and then pushed into serving customers.
- These male children are part of a network of male children who sell sex.
- According to PASS the mediators (middle men) are within this group forming a closed network. It starts from railway station, bus stop, few hotels, and cyber café.
- They ensure that the news passes only among them.

Socio-Economic-Cultural Background



- Nine children- three broken families & five migrant families from TN & Maharashtra, one child parents where educated, daily wages
- House hold income average below 1500/-pm
- Knew more than one language- Hindi, English, Tamil & Telugu (Taken to Mumbai)
- Work in hotels- sex with seniors is part of their daily routine “double edged sword”

The Profile of the Exploiters



- These are local men and domestic tourists who look for cheap sex and prefer male children as they believed there is less risk of HIV/AIDS.
- We were also told that men prefer male children because they needed to pay less money to them for sex, as compared to female children.
- Further, more male children would not become pregnant and there would no controversies or claims or obligations in the future.
- Tourists came mostly from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and a recent trend was that tourists from North India have started coming to Tirupati.
- In some cases tourists sought out the same child with whom they had sex during their previous visits to Tirupati and they also let them know if they were bringing other friends for the same purpose.

Responses from Other Stakeholders



- Male children becoming prostitute is quite a serious problem
- Earn from Rs.500 to 2000 per day
- Their estimate is that over half the hotels and lodges in Tirupati including some well known ones, small hotels near the bus station and railway station, thrive on sex tourism which involves both local people as well as domestic tourists.
- fix appointments with the children through cyber café (Email) and then come so that the child waits for them near the pre-agreed places.
- Hotels are booked well in advance.
- APTDC shared with us the details of visitors, In our attempts to probe further and seek more information about child sexual abuse, the officer became reluctant and claimed he had another meeting and had to leave , use of RTI

NA



PURI- ORISSA



Context

- Famous Hindu pilgrimage destination
- Bhubanehsae & Konark forms part of the state's golden triangle for tourism
- Domestic tourist arrivals to Puri in 2007 is 59,44,890 & Foreign Tourist arrivals is 41,880
- Nationalities of the foreign tourism visiting Puri are mostly British, French, German, Americans, Dutch, Spanish, Italians & Japanese
- Domestic tourist- Karnataka, AP, WB, TN & Maharashtra
- Used 2002 field notes- corroborated the trends observed then

Collaborations

People Cultural Centre, RUSH

Occupations



Puri

fishing, tourist guides, waiters in hotels, selling food in beach areas, small handicrafts works and few work in rice mills

Pentakota- forty thousand fishing families migrants from AP live near the beach

Only source of income is fishing,

Many children in age groups 0-6 and don't go to school,

Speak Teluge are also conversant with Oriya & English

The Children Speak:



- All the children explained poverty as one of the factor responsible for their situation.
- Most children find themselves helpless against the forces that determine their destinies.
- building relationship with “foreign tourists” is more profitable than “domestic tourists” as foreign tourists provides children with toys, chocolates, cycles, nice dresses and sometimes money to renovate their houses or to build house as well.
- They have sex with wide range of tourists who pay just Rs. 50/- up to tourists who pay Rs. 200/- per day
- Where a parent or an older sibling is already involved in the sex trade, other children are more at risk of becoming involved
- Male children are primarily in demand as the families believe that there is less risk with male children selling sex than girls due to social stigma
- girl children is marginalised as compared to boys, but in case of Child Sex Tourism it is boys who are mostly exploited.
- The exploiters are largely male and not too many female
- Boys get friendly with tourists much more easily

Raju, (male child age 15 years) stated that



“I am staying with Joseph (a French tourist) for the last five years. He says that he will take me with him. I have sex with him regularly. Initially it was painful, I used to cry. Now it is a daily routine. He gives money to my family. He has sex with other children also. Sometimes, he wants us to have sex with each other (peer children). I am just waiting for the day when he will take me with him and so I agree with whatever he does to me and my family”.

Where Sexual Abuse Takes Place



- in Puri the abuse happens near Chilka Lake, Konarak, Puri beach areas, lonely areas of the city which are close to the Jagannath Temple, Puri II a village called Pentakota (this is more frequented by foreign tourists) and around the areas of Jagannath Temple
- Places like railway stations, hotels, dhabas, lodges, street corners, beach, rooms where the tourist live, local prostitution houses- .Children also shared that beach is often used as a place to have sex at night as the hawkers close by 7.30 pm.
- Most of the foreign tourists use hotels while domestic tourists use small lodges and rooms in the bars for this purpose
- Newly set up massage parlours that cater solely to tourist demand

Modus Operandi



- Contacted on the beach when selling trinkets or directly by the tourist
- Foreign tourists also come into contact with children in the guise of 'English teacher' or 'Social worker'
- Domestic tourists often make contact with children through pimps or hotels, there are local agents for catering domestic tourist needs
- foreign tourist there is no need for middle men/agent. They approach children and their families directly and provide money for their daily needs.
- Hotels have contacts with adult sex workers, pimps and other middlemen – rickshaw pullers, van pullers, and petty traders. These people make contact with street children and bring them to tourist lodges and hotels as per the demand placed by customers.
- few hotels which provide accommodation only to foreign tourist

Socio-Economic- Cultural Background



- Were from the lower income group
- Earn between Rs 1500 - 2500 Pm & their earnings fall to less than Rs 300 during the months of March to August
- Protect their mothers and to bring some money are forced to enter prostitution as there is no other source of income of them
- Worked in small hotels, fish processing units, are self-employed as beach boys, trinket sellers or guides to the tourists
- most of the time they were exploited by their colleagues who were older

The Profile of the Exploiters



- Foreigners staying in Puri for very long time, almost a year
- In Puri, they are involved in running restaurants or travel agencies that primarily cater to foreign tourists
- This type of child sex exploiter generally stays in a rented accommodation or has bought their own houses or flats
- Some of these tourists are also involved in initiating children into prostitution, and in organizing sex tours, conducted through their travel agencies
- foreign tourist who comes with the intention of exploiting children mostly stay in the hotels which are near slums or poor areas
- prefer foreign tourist and not domestic tourist

Response of Various Stakeholders



- Male children's involvement in sexual activities with foreigners is not objectionable, but girl children should be protected from such activities
- Assistant Director of Department of Tourism- working towards their goals of bringing lots of tourists, increasing the money earned by the state
- Director of Department of Women and Child, Orissa stated that they are aware of this problem and have come across cases related to male child sexual abuse
- *Police* denied knowledge of male child sexual abuse in Puri
- NGO's mentions that male child sexual exploitation is not only by the foreign tourists, domestic tourists from neighbouring states are also culpable

KERLA Tourist Map





Context

- Major pilgrim centre & popular domestic tourist destination
- No. of domestic tourist arrivals is 11,16,998 & foreign tourism is 1537
- Domestic tourist are locals from Kerala, Karnataka, AP, TN
- Foreigners are not allowed inside the temple

Less Visible



- The victims of sexual abuse were not on the streets
- Due to the ban on child labour being enforced by official in Kerala, with goals of “eradication of child labour in the state”
- As a result child abuse cases have become even more hidden and covert
- Picked up from the streets, small hotels, road side eateries and out into rehabilitation and Juvenile homes
- No organizations working on male child sexual abuse in Kerala
- No demarcated or known red-light areas, happens in homes and in lodges

Responses from various Stakeholders



Community Members:

- several male children are abuse and commonly involved in prostitution
- We were informed that this is culturally accepted in the region
- The stories around the prevalence of homosexuality/bisexuality abound, and there seems to be a cultural acceptance of this
- Discussion with women revealed that they often felt relieved that men were not getting into extra marital relationships or seeking women prostitutes
- young children watch adult movies through mobile phones sitting in a group in areas like parks, play groups, near street corners, near petty shops
- heard about male child sexual exploitation they have not heard of any registered case or any complaint from any one residing in the area
- could not find any evidence of foreigners being involved in child abuse in Guruvayoor

Responses from various Stakeholders



The CI stated that, he has not heard of boys being abused in lodges but abuse of girls in Guruvayoor town was known. He said that given it was a temple town, conducting raids in lodges near in the temple was a sensitive issue. He claimed that if the police received concrete information, they would certainly raid such lodges.

Department of Social Welfare: the problem of male child sexual abuse exists in Kerala and is prevalent in Thrissur district, but they are not aware of it near the temple premises



Legal & Policy Framework for protection of children from exploitation

Laws Addressing Male Child Protection



Child Sexual Abuse is a physical and mental violation of child rights

- Laws in India do not specifically address “Child Sexual Abuse”
- IPC do not define child abuse – Only “Rape & Sodomy” Criminal conviction
- Any thing less than that is “Outraging the modesty”
- To complicate the matter further, a child is defined differently in various legislations in India

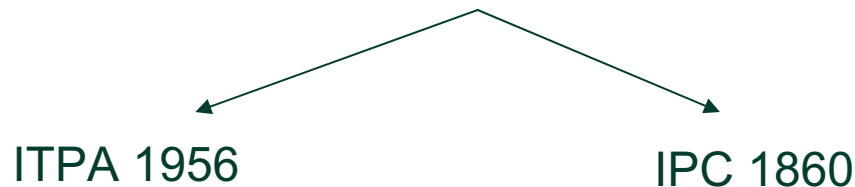
Cont.....

Laws Addressing Male Child Protection



- The JJ Act is the primary legal framework for juvenile justice
- With sexual abuse increasingly associated with tourism, Goa promulgated the Goa Children Act 2003

Prostitution of Children



Laws Addressing Male Child Protection



- Both these laws fall short of international standard to protect children from being prostituted- Optional protocol
- One positive development MWCD is in preparation of a draft of Offences against Children Prevention Bill, 2006
- National Plan of Action for Children 2006 states that child trafficking, sexual exploitation and child pornography will do all the need full to protect all children, both girls and boys, from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation and to prevent use of children for all forms of sexual exploitation, including child pornography.

Investigation Research on Male Child Sexual Abuse



Outcome/Impact:

- ⇒ Identify and prove the existences of the problem in pilgrim sites
- ⇒ Discussion with children vulnerable and at risk
- ⇒ Recommended actions to be taken by Government and industry

Follow-Up:

To engage in advocacy and to raise the issue in the media, Government authorities to feed into state level initiatives and debates on tourism for the protection of children



Recommendations

Similar Recommendations



While the recommendations flow from the data and the facts emerging from the research study, it must be noted that similar recommendations have been made over the years by CSO's and researchers working on the issue of exploitation of children. It is critical that various stakeholders to the issue demonstrate serious intent to address the issues decisively and consistently.



It is absolutely necessary for the government and the tourism industry to accept that the issue and problem of child exploitation is a real and serious one, and play a more active role in protecting, respecting and appreciation of the rights of the child

General Recommendations



- The National and State Tourism Policies need to acknowledge the role of tourism in exploiting children, clearly denounce sexual exploitation of children and commit that tourism will be child exploitation free zones.
- MoT to evolve and develop a “National Plan of Action to Counter Child Abuse In Tourism” by involving all the stakeholders
- Time and again ministries like MoT and State Tourism Departments have refused to acknowledge the problem and take adequate steps saying that the task of looking into the issue of protection of children was not their mandate.
- MoT to state in their Annual Report every year, that India is free from Child Sex Tourism.
- The tourism industry, tour operators, travel agencies, hotels to come up with a Code of conduct related to the protection of children from all forms of exploitation in tourism. They must put in place Reporting and Monitoring Mechanisms and must promote socially responsible tourism.

Prevention



- To agree on a uniform age to define a child in legal terms as various acts in India concerning children have different age limit, allowing many loopholes. We recommend that “a child” should be defined as a person up to 18 years of age, as required by the United National Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which is ratified by India.
- To assess and evaluate the impact of such implementation on the local situation (whether there is a change in the situation) in partnership with Dept. of tourism, local self-government and local NGOs.
- To incorporate special support and care facilities for sexually exploited male children (In the JJ Act or other than JJAct, 2000 provisions).

Prevention



- State action plans should include provisions to tackle and protect boys from prostitution, where ever and when ever enough information about the phenomenon is already available, such in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa etc.
- The MWCD should work with different strategies and plan of action for women and child and should not have the same protection mechanism for both women and child together because of the different levels of vulnerability.
- The Juvenile Justice Act provided for the establishment of a special Juvenile Police Unit authorised to deal with children, but child protection units have not been formed in most States.

Prevention



- Care facilities and human resources should be made available to adequately support sexually exploited boys.
- Efforts must be made to actively involve the panchayats (elected bodies responsible for administration at district level, usually in charge of local development issues), in monitoring the situation in their areas
- The Information Technology Act 2000 to be amended by including provisions that clearly define and prohibit child pornography in accordance with international standards

Protection



- Strengthen hotline services by guaranteeing that they have the networks and services callers need.
- Mapping of the children in need of care and protection or of the services available for them at the district/city/state level with the help of local CSO.
- Child rights laws and methods of handling child abuse cases also to be specifically included in the Police Training School curriculum.
- Airport authorities, border police, railway police, traffic police shall report any suspected cases of abuse of children or an adult travelling with a child under suspicious circumstances, such adults must be detained for questioning at the nearest police station.

Protection



- Provide better treatment for children with the legal system.
- It is the duty of the State to remove all child prostitutes from their existing places of exploitation and to ensure that they are rehabilitated and integrated into society.
- All steps should be taken at the protective homes to restrict or even deny the visiting rights of any one who may be considered to be a perpetrator, including the parent of the child.

Prosecution



- Any offence in case of tourism related child sexual abuse should be considered as non-bailable offence
- Strict enforcement of existing legislations – ITPA and IPC sections.
- Implementing JJA 2002 to establish a special cell for child protection and deputing special police for the same.
- Special units within the police and expanding the mandate of tourist police for monitoring and reporting Child Sex Tourism by tourists should be established.

Prosecution



- Immediate steps should be taken to adopt extra territorial laws and initiate appropriate action to ensure that no offending tourist (foreign and domestic) escapes punishment by leaving this country/state.
- Indian Law on prostitution must be amended to specifically address children, clearly define which activities and types of remuneration are prohibited, and criminalise all acts of obtaining, procuring or providing a child for prostitution, as required under the Optional Protocol. In addition, legal protection against sexual exploitation must be granted to male children.

Prevention and Awareness-raising Campaigns



- Sensitisation and training of authorities like railway and traffic police, airport authorities, who deal with children is particularly important so that they are aware of various child rights laws and methods of handling child abuses related cases.
- Running extensive media campaign to inform tourists that exploitation of children and Child Sex Tourism is not acceptable in our country, in partnership with Tourism Industry.

Prevention and Awareness-raising Campaigns



- To give awareness and Capacity building programmes to all the Law enforcing authorities to deal with the case and are aware of the law to book the cases against the offender.
- Protection to children who are vulnerable and those children who have no support and access to services through awareness programmes.
- Capacity building of the police, government department and local NGOs to address child pornography would be highly recommended, as there is a lack of such expertise in India and the problem is escalating.

Future Research



More in-depth studies on the commercial sexual exploitation of boys are needed to support effective campaigns and interventions against this phenomenon. A national level network/forum on prostitution of boys should also be established as the foundation for adequate responses, exchange of information and programme intervention.

EQUATIONS CALLS FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN
TOURISM AND HOLDS GOVERNMENTS, TOURISM
PROMOTERS AND INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE FOR
ENSURING THAT TOURISM IS
NON-EXPLOITATIVE AND EQUALLY BENEFICIAL

Thank You !

